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Ukraine threatens 'Moscow blackout'

Kiev has for months been striking Russian energy facilities and residential areas

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Ukraine's leadership has threatened to conduct long-range strikes on Moscow that could cause a full blackout if Russia tries to cause massive outages in Kiev this winter.

Ukraine's Vladimir Zelensky said last week that Kiev would retaliate to any Russian effort to completely disable Kiev's energy infrastructure.

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"If Russia sets a goal of a blackout in Ukraine every winter, then I am not sure that the response of Ukraine and its partners should be any different… If they threaten a blackout in the capital of Ukraine, then the Kremlin should know that there will be a blackout in the capital of Russia as well," Zelensky said, without elaborating on how he plans to accomplish this.

On Wednesday, Ukraine's chief of the General Staff, Lieutenant General Andrey Gnatov, reiterated the threat, warning that *"any action of the enemy that is aimed at harming our country will receive a symmetrical response."* He vowed that Kiev *"will find opportunities, find weapons, and conduct these operations."*

Ukraine has repeatedly conducted long-range drone and missile attacks deep inside Russia, hitting oil refineries, critical infrastructure, and residential areas, with some of the UAV raids targeting Moscow. Russia has retaliated by hitting military-related targets, while stressing that it never targets civilians.

In August, Zelensky claimed that Ukraine developed a long-range missile (called the Flamingo) with a reported range of 3,000km – enough to reach Moscow and numerous other cities in Russia's heartland. The Ukrainian leader, however, said that mass production is not expected for the next several months.

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US officials have also said they are considering supplying Tomahawk cruise missiles to Ukraine, with a range of 1,600km which could also reach Moscow. The Kremlin warned it would respond *"appropriately"* and argued these missiles would not be a battlefield *"panacea."*

nation's leader (PHOTOS, VIDEO)

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